



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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Army Directed to Evaluate Chemical Stockpile Options

ABERDEEN, Md. – The Army today announced that it has received official direction from the Department of Defense (DoD) to consider and evaluate relocation of some of the chemical weapons stockpile located at various storage sites across the United States.

DoD also directed the Army to investigate and develop other alternatives, along with relocation evaluations. According to the DoD directive, the major focus of all these evaluations is to develop alternatives to achieve an April 2012 deadline for the 100 percent destruction of the U.S chemical weapons stockpile.

In support of the December 2004 Department of Defense Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM), the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons) and the Program Manager, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PMACWA) were tasked by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction) to investigate relocation and other alternatives, as stipulated in the ADM.

“We have just received our directions from DoD on the matter,” said Michael A. Parker, dual-hatted as the director of the Army’s CMA and PM of DoD’s ACWA program.

“CMA has been instructed to initiate an investigation that considers and evaluates relocation of some of the chemical weapons stockpile,” Parker stated. “This will be done in an effort to help the United States achieve the extended 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 100% destruction milestone.”

The United States is a signatory to the CWC, an international treaty that calls for the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles. The current 100% destruction date is April 29, 2007, however the US requested and received an extension last year to December 31, 2007 its 45percent destruction deadline. The original 45 percent deadline was April 29, 2005. It is expected that the U.S. will apply for a one-time, five year overall destruction deadline delay to April 29, 2012.

For more information,
contact the
Chemical Materials
Agency Public
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www.cma.army.mil

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“It is premature at this time to comment on the content of the evaluations,” Parker continued. “The Army has just received the direction from the Office of the Secretary of Defense and is currently in the process of formulating its alternative evaluation strategy. We have a proven track record in safely storing and eliminating chemical materiel, while protecting workers, the public, and the environment. This will be a cornerstone of any alternatives we consider.”

As of January 12, 2005, CMA operations had resulted in nearly 11,000 tons of chemical agent destroyed, accounting for a little over 34% of the originally declared U.S. stockpile.

The Army currently stores chemical weapons at eight sites across the country: Tooele, Utah; Anniston, Ala.; Umatilla, Ore.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Edgewood, Md.; Newport, Ind.; Richmond, Ky.; and Pueblo, Colo. Disposal facilities are in operation in Utah, Alabama, Oregon and Maryland. Disposal facilities are expected to open in Indiana and Arkansas later this year.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

For more information,
contact the
Chemical Materials
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www.cma.army.mil